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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

MARCH 29, 1954

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

LATE NEWS

The Government of India abolished the import duty on cotton effective February 28, 1954, and is instituting in its place a system of manufacturing excise taxes on cloth produced from imported cotton. The duty in effect prior to that date was 2 annas per pound plus 5 percent surcharge (a total of 2.75 U.S. cents). The new excise taxes per yard on cotton cloth are:

(1) From 2 to 2-1/2 annas (2.62 to 3.28 cents) on superfine types (over 47 counts).
(2) From 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 annas (1.64 to 1.97 cents) on fine types (35 to 47 counts).
(3) From 1/4 to 1/2 anna (0.33 to 0.66 cents) on coarse and medium types (below 35 counts).

Goods produced for export are exempt from the tax but about 75 percent of the cotton goods exported from India are made from locally produced cotton and are not affected anyway. The new tax system should have no appreciable effect on prices of cloth on the local market. The tax is not applicable to imported cotton goods.

- - - -

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in December 1953 amounted to 84,000 bales (500 pounds gross) making a total of 386,000 bales for August-December. The principal destinations included in the latter total are: Japan 151,000 bales, Belgium 53,000, Western Germany 44,000, United Kingdom 40,000, Netherlands 30,000, Spain 21,000, Switzerland 14,000, Sweden 7,000, and Italy 7,000. These figures include cotton linters, waste, hull fiber, etc., but do not include transshipments to Canada by railroad.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains.

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WORLD PEANUT PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD [1]

World production of peanuts in 1953 is believed to be by far the largest of record, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. The indicated harvest of 11.9 million short tons of unshelled nuts, confirms the early forecast of an all-time high. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, November 23, 1953.) This volume of production represents an increase of 1.6 million tons or 16 percent from 1952 and 2.4 million tons or 26 percent from the prewar average.

Substantial increases were reported in all the major peanut-producing countries and many of the minor-producing ones. However, India, with roughly one-third of the world output, accounted for the most significant gain in 1953.

North American production was up 18 percent as a result of larger crops in the United States and Mexico. The United States harvested 787,125 tons from 1.5 million acres, an increase of 15 percent from 1952 but one-third less than the record crop of 1948. Acreage picked and threshed was about 5 percent above last year's. The average yield was a record 1,024 pounds per acre, 9 percent above the previous high of 937 pounds in 1952.

European peanut production is negligible and output appears to have varied little in recent years.

An increase of 19 percent is estimated to have occurred in Asia. India's production is reported at 4.2 million tons from 11.4 million acres, the largest crop since 1944. This is a 1 million-ton gain from 1952 and represents increases of 28 and 13 percent, respectively, from the prewar and postwar averages. Acreage was down 4 percent from 1952 but was 50 percent above prewar. After a number of years of limited rainfall, Madras State had sufficient rain in the past season. Other major producing states also reported favorable growing and harvesting conditions.

The peanut crop in China-Manchuria has been estimated by unofficial Hong Kong sources at about 2.8 million tons. This is probably 9 percent larger than the output in 1952 when China Proper is believed to have produced around 2.4 million tons. This estimate of last year's crop, however, would indicate that overall production in both areas was somewhat short of the prewar average of around 3 million tons.

The South American crop, harvested early in 1953, was about 8 percent larger than in the previous year. Argentina reported a record outturn of 190,000 tons and Brazil a near-record of 165,000.

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

PEANUTS 1/: Acreage and production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-53

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Production				
	Average		1951	1952	1953 3/	Average		1951	1952	1953 3/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA										
Mexico	33	79	134	148	160	12.2	37.4	74.8	82.7	88.2
United States	1,659	3,056	2,009	1,464	1,538	614.7	1,046.3	838,0	685.8	787.1
Cuba	-	78	-	-	-	4/ 8.4	19.2	4.2	-	-
Dominican Republic	-	44	56	-	-	4/ 3.8	12.2	22.5	-	-
Total 5/	1,740	3,260	2,235	1,700	1,790	640.0	1,116.5	942.0	795.0	901.5
EUROPE										
Italy	4/ 2	9	11	11	-	1.6	6.3	8.2	9.2	8.9
Spain	6/ 24	16	19	-	-	6/ 23.3	11.7	13.4	-	-
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 5/	35	35	45	45	45	28.0	21.0	27.0	28.0	28.0
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	4/ 29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASIA.										
Turkey	6/ 3	4/ 7	10	12	-	4/ 1.9	2.8	9.9	13.2	-
Burma	784	635	700	722	7/ 802	192.2	141.7	198.2	200.0	-
China proper	4/ 3,639	4/ 3,755	-	-	(-	4/ 2,913.4	2,820.6	2,480.0	2,370.0	(8/ 2,750.0
Manchuria	-	-	-	-	(	121.0	-	-	-	(
French India	4/ 7	6/ 7	-	-	-	4/ 5.6	6/ 6.1	-	-	-
India	7,535	9,923	11,798	11,850	11,356	3,295.7	3,750.9	3,410.4	3,230.1	4,224.6
Indochina	4/ 42	6/ 20	-	-	-	4/ 16.0	6/ 5.6	-	-	-
Indonesia 9/	572	4/ 414	644	549	-	289.1	202.3	268.0	270.0	-
Japan	4/ 19	4/ 17	57	62	62	14.6	13.4	33.0	38.4	44.6
Philippine Republic	18	4/ 27	55	62	63	4.7	4/ 5.7	17.8	17.0	18.7
Taiwan (Formosa)	4/ 77	114	210	-	-	38.5	44.6	67.4	66.0	59.5
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.3	83.7	87.9	-
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 5/	12,940	15,115	17,130	16,830	16,560	6,900.0	7,145.0	6,737.0	6,465.0	7,710.0

PEANUTS (cont'd)

SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina 4/	207	292	260	350	416	87.3	136.1	102.7	170.5	190.4
Brazil	-	200	349	349	316 6/	14.8	85.0	166.3	159.8	165.3
Paraguay 4/	29 4/	30	38	38	50 4/	19.4	14.2	13.7	-	-
Uruguay	5	23	22	19	18	1.2	7.5	9.5	3.6	4.2
Total 5/	320	570	695	780	825	129.0	252.0	302.0	354.5	384.0
AFRICA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	43 4/	100	62	-	-	8.1 4/	20.2	16.5	-	-
Belgian Congo 6/	243	484	685	700	- 6/	65.1 6/	159.8	175.8	215.0	-
Tanganyika 4/	277 4/	137	206	-	- 10/	23.4 4/	26.0	40.0	45.0	-
Uganda 4/	156	338	415	350	- 6/	78.3	170.0	208.3	170.0	-
Gambia	- 4/	210	220	220	220 10/	58.1 4/	70.4	75.6	64.4	70.0
Egypt	23	25	25	27	24	17.2	18.8	20.6	22.2	26.8
French Equatorial Africa 4/11/	91 4/11/	47	408	-	- 4/11/	17.6 4/11/	17.0	100.0	-	-
French Cameroun 4/	279 4/	306	356	-	-	36.0	67.3	112.0	-	-
French West Africa 4/	2,955	2,524	2,500	2,500	2,500 4/	875.9	812.0	860.0	825.0	970.0
Madagascar	14	29	39	63	-	6.6	8.1	14.1	25.8	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	- 10/	42.9	28.8	-	-	-
Nigeria and Cameroons	-	2,544	-	-	- 10/	354.7	581.6	715.0	730.0	770.0
Angola	18 4/	21	-	-	-	6.2	5.1 10/	5.8 10/	5.3	-
Portuguese Guinea 10/	-	-	-	-	-	28.0	40.7	29.8	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	- 4/	122	178	158	-	-	21.8	49.3	33.6	-
Union of South Africa 12/	56 4/	252	434	-	-	12.0	39.6	112.0	116.0	150.0
Total 5/	6,180	7,525	8,720	8,715	8,830	1,765.0	2,130.0	2,650.0	2,640.0	2,870.0
OCEANIA										
Australia 4/	14	28	17	14	22 4/	6.1	16.2	6.1	5.3	11.1
Total 5/	15	30	20	15	25	6.5	16.5	6.5	6.0	11.5
World total	21,260	26,585	28,895	28,135	28,125	9,484.0	10,700.0	10,682.0	10,300.0	11,920.0

1/ Peanuts in the shell. Southern Hemisphere peanut crops, which are harvested from April to June, are combined with those of the Northern Hemisphere harvested from September through December of the same year. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 6/ One year only. 7/ Planted area. 8/ China and Manchuria. 9/ Java and Madura only. 10/ Exports. 11/ Commercial crop. 12/ Production on European farms only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, and other information.

While estimates have not been reported for many countries in Africa, total production increased by possibly close to 10 percent. The French West African crop is expected to total 970,000 tons, one of the largest of record, with output in Senegal alone estimated at around 700,000 tons. The Nigerian crop is large but appears unlikely to fulfill high expectations anticipated earlier in the season. The total harvest may approximate 770,000 tons against an estimated 730,000 in 1952. Stocks in the interior producing center of Kano in mid-January amounted to around 490,000 tons, including 360,000 tons from the new crop and 130,000 from the previous crop. A record outturn of peanuts was produced in 1953 in the Union of South Africa and marked increases have been indicated for the Gambia, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Egypt.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

GRAIN TRADE NOTES

Egypt's Grain Supply Position: The aggregate production of cereals in 1953 was the largest since 1939, according to the latest estimates of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. It now appears that about 564,000 metric tons of wheat and 348,000 tons of corn may be carried over into the 1954-55 season (stocks on June 30, 1954). The 1953-54 imports of IWA wheat through January 1954 totaled only 70,000 metric tons and Egypt will probably need, as a maximum, about 250,000 metric tons of the remaining 330,000 tons of the current season's IWA quota. Total wheat imports from all sources are expected to amount to about 500,000 tons this season.

Australia's Wheat Supplies: The latest official estimate of the 1953-54 wheat crop is 199 million bushels, a substantial increase over earlier forecasts. Such a production, together with the carry-over from 1952-53 gives a total supply of 237 million bushels for the current season (December 1953 - November 1954). This compares with the 1952-53 supplies of 212 million bushels. Based on the expected exports and domestic utilization, Australia will have a considerably larger carry-over from this marketing year (November 30, 1954 stocks), than the 38 million bushels held at the end of 1952-53.

Argentina's Grain Exports, July 1953-January 1954: Grain exported by Argentina during the period July 1953-January 1954 totaled 3,848,043 metric tons compared with 467,537 tons during the comparable period a year earlier. The totals for individual grains, with comparisons for the similar period during 1952-53 shown in parenthesis, were as follows: Wheat, 1,900,916 (31,016) tons; rye, 428,751 (1,725) tons; corn, 855,270 (389,732) tons; oats, 243,953 (7,230) tons; and barley, 419,153 (37,834) tons. About 1,159,000 tons of wheat went to such nearby destinations as Brazil, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, and Bolivia and most of the balance to European markets. The latter area also figured as the destination for the major shipments of rye, corn, oats, and barley.

1953 Wheat Imports Into Israel: A total of 324,155 metric tons of wheat were imported by Israel during 1953. Of this quantity, 150,304 tons were purchased under Israel's IWA quota and an additional 70,000 tons from the unused Italian IWA quota. Also, 31,444 tons were imported from Turkey by virtue of a tripartite agreement concluded in connection with the Reparations treaty between Israel and Western Germany. In addition to wheat, Israel imported 19,958 metric tons of flour during 1953, the bulk of which originated in the United States.

Venezuela-Panama Trade Agreement : Announcement has been made of an informal trade agreement under which Venezuela would ship corn to Panama in exchange for sugar and rice. The amount of Venezulan corn involved in this arrangement is very small (1,500 to 2,000 tons). However, it appears significant that Venezuela is seeking an offshore market for a surplus staple food product.

Colombia Reduces Special Tax on Imported Wheat: The Government of Colombia has recently reduced the special tax on imported wheat from 25 to 15 centavos per kilo ($2.72 to $1.63 per bushel) and import licenses for wheat are being granted freely. This action was for the purpose of reducing domestic flour and bread prices and was one of several anti-inflationary measures which have been taken by the Government of Colombia.

U.S. MEAT IMPORTS DECLINE IN 1953: EXPORTS INCREASE 1/

Imports of all meat by the United States in 1953 were moderately smaller than a year earlier. Imports of beef and of lamb and mutton were down substantially from 1952. Inshipments of pork were more than twice as large as a year earlier and were the largest of record. Entries of all meat in 1953 were the third largest of record being exceeded only during 1951 and 1952. The United States continued to be a net importer of beef in 1953 as it has been for several years. More pork was imported than was exported for the first time since records have been maintained beginning in 1826.

Imports made up only a small part of domestic use. Supplies of foreign beef and veal were equal to 1.7 percent of beef and veal consumption in 1953 compared with 3.4 percent a year earlier. The record imports of pork amounted to only 1.6 percent of domestic use last year compared with 0.6 percent in 1952. Imported supplies of lamb and mutton made up only 0.4 percent of utilization during 1953 compared with 0.9 percent a year earlier.

1/ A more extensive statement will be published soon as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Foreign trade in meat, 1949-53

(Product weight Basis)

Item	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
IMPORTS					
Beef and veal:					
Fresh, chilled or frozen beef	76,627	61,732	86,714	71,971	26,692
Fresh, chilled or frozen veal	6,706	9,533	7,298	98	447
Canned beef	72,347	124,621	153,904	120,181	100,098
Pickled and cured beef	1,621	3,009	60,093	60,519	12,796
Boneless beef 1/	13,400	11,200	11,139	31,528	20,066
Total beef and veal	170,701	210,095	319,148	284,297	160,099
Pork:					
Fresh chilled or frozen	593	3,774	9,833	3,185	36,651
Hams, shoulders and bacon 2/	2,029	26,624	37,622	57,192	106,106
Other pickled or salted	264	923	941	969	2,524
Sausage except fresh	3/	311	557	664	745
Total pork	2,886	31,632	48,953	62,010	146,026
Lamb and mutton:					
Fresh, chilled or frozen	3,656	3,393	6,736	6,156	3,123
Other canned meats or prepared or preserved meat: 4/	6,370	8,814	3,753	4,113	3,219
Total meat imports	183,613	253,934	378,590	356,576	312,467
EXPORTS					
Beef and veal:					
Fresh or frozen	4,168	3,015	1,770	3,077	14,898
Canned	3,584	2,144	2,084	1,297	10,931
Pickled or cured	11,852	11,360	7,753	10,360	13,090
Total beef and veal	19,604	16,519	11,607	14,734	38,919
Pork:					
Fresh or frozen	14,285	4,420	16,306	11,845	6,517
Hams and shoulders, cured or cooked	6,146	9,047	11,165	12,967	10,753
Bacon 5/	11,551	27,723	39,814	41,215	7,154
Other pork, pickled, salted or otherwise cured	20,515	12,243	10,023	24,862	50,685
Hams and shoulders, canned	3/	3/	3/	2,327	1,296
Other pork. canned	7,152	4,825	4,942	3,539	3,003
Total pork	59,649	58,258	82,250	96,755	79,408
Lamb and Mutton: (except canned)	787	334	207	374	1,313
Sausage, bologna and frankfurters:					
Except canned	1,192	1,011	1,118	1,188	1,368
Canned	3,675	1,864	4,154	3,293	3,475
Sausage ingredients, cured, Excl. canned:	2,401	1,464	439	6/	6/
Meat and meat products, canned n.e.c.	6,652	3,959	2,947	1,329	2,270
Baby food, canned	3/	3/	3/	322	395
Total meat exports	93,960	83,409	102,722	117,995	127,148

1/ Includes estimated amounts erroneously classified as other canned meats or prepared or preserved meat.
2/ Including canned 3/ Previously included in another category. 4/ Excludes estimated amounts of boneless beef which are included with beef and veal as noted in footnote 1. 5/ Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.
6/ Not separately classified.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census. March 16, 1954

Exports of meat during 1953 were slightly greater than a year earlier and were the largest since World War II when large shipments were being made under Lend-Lease, UNRRA and other foreign assistance programs. Foreign shipments of beef were up substantially in 1953 reflecting shipments to Europe financed under programs of the Foreign Operations Administration. The overseas movement of pork declined moderately in 1953. Exports of fresh and frozen pork, bacon, and hams were off sharply but shipments of other salted or cured pork were twice as large as a year earlier.

Greater imports of pork and smaller imports of beef reflected the relative supply and price relationships for those meats. Beef supplies in the United States increased sharply in 1953 and consumption, averaging 76 pounds per person, was a new record high. Prices were the lowest since 1946. On the other hand, pork output declined further in 1953 and per capita consumption averaged only 64 pounds, the lowest since 1942. Prices of hog products last year averaged the highest in 5 years.

DECREASE IN WOOL MOVEMENT FROM SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE [1]

Exports of wool from the 5 major producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere decreased by 14 percent for the current season through December [2] as compared to the same period of the previous season. The decline in exports occurred for the most part in the movement from the South American countries which was only partially offset by increased exports from Oceania and Africa.

Exports from Argentina and Uruguay declined sharply from the high level of a year earlier. Large stocks previously accumulated due to resistances to lower prices were moved into trade channels during the 1952-53 season. Since prices have declined this season the tendency to hold back supplies is again evident.

Larger exports from Australia reflects the continued high level of production and the dominant position for Australian wool in the world market. However, exports to the United Kingdom, United States and Japan declined by 18 percent below the corresponding period of 1952, while more than an offsetting increase occurred in exports to Continental Europe.

Exports from New Zealand have been slightly below last season while the movement out of South Africa was slightly larger. The decline in New Zealand's exports was due primarily to smaller shipments to the United States, while the increase from South Africa occurred in the movement of larger quantities to the United States and Continental Europe.

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[1] A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, 25, D. C.

[2] Season begins July 1 for Australia, New Zealand and Union of South Africa and October 1 for Argentina and Uruguay.

WOOL: Exports from Southern Hemisphere Countries 1953-54 season through December 1/, with comparisons

(Actual Weights)

Principal Countries of Destination	Australia		New Zealand		Union of South Africa		Argentina		Uruguay		Total 5 Countries	
	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54
	Mil. Lbs.	mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.
United States	38.5	33.6	22.9	10.9	6.9	11.9	73.5	9.8	20.1	0.8	161.9	67.0
United Kingdom	195.9	165.4	61.4	70.0	34.9	27.5	36.1	1.6	23.4	9.9	351.7	274.4
Canada	3.5	1.9	4.0	1.8	0.3	0.2	0.6	-	-	-	8.4	3.9
Japan	70.1	43.6	1.0	0.7	7.1	1.7	1.4	7.0	3.2	0.4	82.8	53.4
U.S.S.R.	-	26.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.9
Continental Europe												
France	80.3	97.8	11.0	18.2	18.4	23.4	0.1	-	4.2	0.8	114.0	140.2
Belgium	38.2	50.6	4.0	3.7	5.0	9.4	15.0	0.3	4.0	0.7	66.2	64.7
Germany	25.0	29.5	4.1	6.4	18.3	16.0	7.5	2.7	4.7	2.0	59.6	56.6
Italy	47.4	65.8	1.9	0.9	13.4	17.8	1.8	0.3	8.1	0.5	72.6	85.3
Other	8.6	17.3	10.2	5.1	1.6	0.9	6.4	1.3	6.8	5.8	33.6	30.4
Total	199.5	261.0	31.2	34.3	56.7	67.5	30.8	4.6	27.8	9.8	346.0	377.2
Other	12.1	21.8	5.0	4.5	2.3	2.4	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.4	21.9	31.4
Total	519.6	554.2	125.5	122.2	108.2	111.2	144.0	24.3	75.4	22.3	972.7	834.2
Percent of change from 1952-53	+ 6.6%		-2.6%		+ 2.8%		- 83.1%		- 70.4%		- 14.2%	

1/ Season begins July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Compiled from official sources and reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers.

Foreign Agricultural Service.--March 1954.

The rate of world consumption during the first half of 1953 was about 33 percent above the same period of 1952, 10 percent above the first half of 1951 and less than 10 percent below 1950. However, the rate of consumption declined sharply from this high level during the latter part of 1953 and total consumption for 1953 (estimated at 2,600 million pounds, clean) was only about 11 percent greater than 1952. The decline in consumption which occurred late in 1953 was due to an appreciable decrease in the rate of consumption for both the United States and the United Kingdom. However, in the case of the United States the decline in imports was also partially due to heavier use of domestic wool and trade stocks.

World supplies of raw wool estimated at about 2,550 million pounds clean basis for 1953-54 appear to be adequate. Prices have tended downward during the current season, reflecting the lower rate of consumption. However, current prices are above a year ago. Increased support of the market by the Continent and fairly active buying by the Soviet Union have helped to maintain prices. Also the tendency towards holding Argentine and Uruguayan wool off world markets has added a steadying influence.

REVIEW OF THE 1953 BARLEY AND OATS PRODUCTION

The 1953 world production of barley and oats is estimated at 130 million short tons, based on the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. This third estimate of the world total of the two grains is virtually unchanged from the previous estimate published in Foreign Crops and Markets, January 18, 1954. The total tonnage of the two crops is only about 2 percent less than the large outturn last year and is 13 percent above the 1945-49 average.

Barley and oats are about evenly divided, on a tonnage basis, in the current season. The barley outturn of 2,745 million bushels is the same as the large 1952 crop and is 26 percent above the 1945-49 average. World oats production of 4,025 million bushels is 4 percent below the 1952 total of 4,200 million bushels and 8 percent below the prewar average.

In North America the barley crop of 511 million bushels was slightly below the 525 million bushels produced last year, despite increased acreage. The production was, however, sharply above average. Some increase over the 1952 harvest in the United States was offset by a smaller crop in Canada. Production of oats is estimated at 1,626 million bushels compared with 1,730 million in 1952 and the prewar average of 1,384 million. The reduction from the 1952 figure was mainly attributed to lower yields though some reduction in acreage is also reported.

Production of these grains in Europe is slightly above the 1952 total, with increases for both barley and oats, but the larger increase for barley. The barley crop for 1953 is estimated at 835 million bushels, compared with 805 million in 1952 and the prewar average of 666 million. European oats production is placed at 1,430 million bushels. This is slightly above the 1952 figure of 1,402 million but is considerably below the prewar average of 1,608 million.

BARLEY: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-53 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Yield per acre 3/					Production				
	Average		1951	1952	1953 4/	Average		1951	1952	1953 4/	Average		1951	1952	1953 4/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada	4,291	6,717	7,840	8,477	8,911	20.7	21.5	31.3	34.4	29.4	88,882	144,688	245,218	291,379	862,065
Mexico	374	457	571	571	581	10.6	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.4	3,960	6,032	7,520	7,560	7,800
United States	10,817	10,713	9,436	8,244	8,534	22.1	25.5	26.9	27.4	28.2	238,622	273,306	254,287	226,014	241,015
Estimated total 5/	15,480	17,390	17,850	17,290	18,030	-	-	-	-	-	331,000	424,000	507,000	525,000	511,000
EUROPE															
Austria	401	293	370	371	373	32.6	24.3	35.1	33.7	40.3	13,087	7,127	13,000	12,500	15,050
Belgium 6/	74	198	218	222	228	48.2	47.4	56.9	56.4	58.6	3,570	9,388	12,400	12,520	13,360
Denmark	946	1,079	1,283	1,401	1,543	55.9	59.6	63.3	69.9	65.2	52,881	64,345	81,160	97,880	100,600
Finland	280	346	330	380	440	28.2	24.6	30.3	28.4	34.1	7,900	8,500	10,000	10,800	15,000
France	1,897	2,019	2,518	2,656	2,997	27.9	26.0	30.4	29.9	34.8	53,004	52,500	76,450	79,420	104,190
Western Germany	7/ 2,005	1,288	1,640	1,747	1,948	7/ 39.4	34.0	48.7	46.2	48.8	7/ 79,000	43,740	79,870	80,710	95,140
Greece	525	453	516	531	530	17.8	16.2	20.5	18.5	22.4	9,365	7,359	10,560	9,800	11,870
Ireland	118	147	167	225	189	45.9	45.8	49.1	51.6	51.9	5,413	6,739	8,200	11,620	9,800
Italy	475	603	621	626	618	20.9	15.7	20.0	19.6	23.2	9,950	9,467	12,420	12,250	14,340
Netherlands	107	139	160	172	255	55.5	51.4	60.3	64.0	50.3	5,934	7,147	9,650	11,000	12,820
Norway	143	99	135	158	198	38.2	40.5	41.7	43.0	49.3	5,467	4,014	5,630	6,790	9,760
Portugal	320	322	378	378	383	12.8	11.9	16.6	16.1	16.0	4,100	3,835	6,280	6,070	6,120
Spain	8/ 4,549	3,979	3,815	3,900	3,955	8/ 21.3	21.0	25.8	26.2	18.6	8/ 97,059	83,528	98,420	102,330	73,500
Sweden	252	226	272	377	468	39.5	36.5	41.9	40.1	46.4	9,951	8,252	11,400	15,100	21,700
Switzerland	13	66	48	59	61	33.1	41.6	45.8	47.8	45.1	430	2,745	2,200	2,820	2,750
United Kingdom	934	2,120	1,908	2,281	2,226	39.2	43.3	47.4	47.8	49.1	36,596	91,895	90,490	108,920	109,240
Yugoslavia	1,045	-	-	-	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	18,800	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/	14,100	14,370	15,440	16,550	17,480	-	-	-	-	-	413,000	428,000	548,000	597,000	635,000
Other Europe, estimated total 9/	9,210	7,830	8,030	8,420	8,210	-	-	-	-	-	253,000	172,000	207,000	208,000	200,000
All Europe, estimated total 5/	23,310	22,200	23,470	24,970	25,690	-	-	-	-	-	666,000	600,000	755,000	805,000	835,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	26,600	19,800	-	-	-	16.0	13.7	-	-	-	425,000	272,000	-	-	-

ASIA															
Iran	7/ 1,545	1,687	1,873	1,977	1,977	7/ 23.1	22.0	17.7	19.5	19.1	7/ 35,728	37,157	33,100	38,600	37,700
Iraq	7/ 1,932	1,901	2,500	2,200	2,400	7/ 12.2	15.5	13.8	13.6	20.8	23,635	29,502	34,500	29,850	50,000
Lebanon	10/	52	44	28	28	10/	22.4	12.5	24.6	24.6	10/	1,165	550	690	690
Syria	10/ 793	867	475	770	900	10/ 19.4	12.8	-	13.6	15.0	10/ 15,386	11,135	5,000	10,500	13,500
Turkey	4,592	4,235	5,089	5,713	6,019	20.9	16.2	24.4	25.6	26.7	96,129	68,675	124,000	146,470	160,750
China	7/ 16,000	15,521	-	-	-	7/ 21.7	20.8	-	-	-	7/ 347,000	322,244	-	-	-
Manchuria	7/ 353	250	-	-	-	7/ 18.3	22.2	-	-	-	7/ 6,462	5,550	-	-	-
India 11/	7/ 5,793	6,900	7,694	7,800	8,100	7/ 15.6	15.4	14.2	12.8	13.3	7/ 90,253	106,255	109,000	100,000	107,500
Pakistan 11/	7/ 486	547	571	532	521	7/ 14.5	12.7	13.1	12.0	10.2	7/ 7,047	6,922	7,500	6,400	5,300
Japan	1,888	2,137	2,420	2,301	2,261	38.7	26.2	41.3	43.1	42.5	73,113	56,046	100,000	99,100	96,200
Korea	2,671	-	-	-	-	18.6	-	-	-	-	49,656	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/	37,860	37,720	39,010	40,250	41,340	-	-	-	-	-	768,000	692,000	760,000	800,000	825,000
AFRICA															
Algeria	3,051	2,227	2,934	3,300	3,086	10.9	12.6	8.9	14.5	11.3	33,132	28,120	26,000	48,000	35,000
Egypt	276	260	125	140	120	38.8	33.1	38.4	39.3	40.0	10,697	8,605	4,800	5,500	4,800
French Morocco	4,448	3,728	4,660	5,100	4,700	12.0	12.7	15.9	11.0	14.9	53,279	47,322	74,000	56,000	70,000
Tunisia	1,182	1,257	741	1,829	892	7.7	6.3	4.3	8.8	9.3	9,048	7,901	3,220	16,100	8,300
Union of South Africa	7/ 86	105	-	-	-	7/ 18.1	16.6	-	-	-	1,555	1,740	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/	10,310	8,980	10,200	12,430	10,890	-	-	-	-	-	121,000	107,000	128,000	150,000	145,000
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	1,286	1,693	870	2,104	-	17.6	21.0	17.8	26.1	-	22,586	35,576	15,500	54,900	40,000
Chile	184	132	150	165	165	27.4	30.5	38.9	39.4	38.2	5,041	4,030	5,830	6,500	6,300
Uruguay	44	65	52	64	-	14.8	13.0	15.8	15.9	-	649	846	820	1,020	-
Estimated total 5/	2,140	2,660	2,040	3,290	2,940	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	53,000	38,000	78,000	64,000
OCEANIA															
Australia	648	868	1,118	1,370	1,701	18.0	19.4	20.4	26.7	22.6	11,651	16,854	22,830	36,580	38,400
New Zealand	24	56	55	-	-	39.7	39.7	41.3	-	-	952	2,223	2,270	2,400	2,600
Total	672	924	1,173	1,430	1,761	-	-	-	-	-	12,603	19,077	25,100	38,980	41,000
Estimated world total 5/	116,370	110,170	115,240	121,660	122,650	-	-	-	-	-	2,362,000	2,170,000	2,540,000	2,745,000	2,745,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow: thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1953 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1953 and ended early in 1954. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production, are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 6/ Data for individual years shown are not strictly comparable with averages shown, since recent estimates exclude data for farms of less than 2.5 acres. 7/ Average of less than 5 years. 8/ Figure for 1935 only. 9/ Comprises Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania. 10/ Estimates for Syria and Lebanon not shown separately during this period. 11/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable throughout, since figures for 1951- 53 include allowances for non-reporting areas, which were not included for earlier periods shown, but were included in estimated total for Asia.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

OATS: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-53 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Yield per acre 3/					Production				
	Average					Average					Average				
	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952	1953 4/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952	1953 4/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952	1953 4/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada 5/	13,246	12,021	11,897	11,062	9,830	25.5	28.4	41.0	42.2	41.3	338,071	341,612	488,191	466,805	405,580
Mexico	29	108	202	203	205	16.0	19.9	17.3	17.3	18.5	465	2,152	3,500	3,520	3,800
United States	35,761	40,184	36,525	38,422	39,358	29.2	34.3	36.2	32.8	30.9	1,045,329	1,376,527	1,321,288	1,260,127	1,216,416
Estimated total 6/	49,040	52,310	48,630	49,690	49,390	-	-	-	-	-	1,384,000	1,720,000	1,813,000	1,730,000	1,626,000
EUROPE															
Austria	686	534	544	545	544	41.9	32.6	46.2	50.1	52.9	28,746	17,424	25,150	27,300	28,800
Belgium 7/	548	518	403	409	400	74.7	73.1	80.8	78.0	78.8	40,946	37,888	32,550	31,900	31,500
Denmark	932	822	677	-	601	75.3	82.5	86.2	-	94.0	70,205	67,820	58,350	66,140	56,490
Finland	1,030	931	1,175	1,225	1,240	43.7	37.9	47.2	47.3	53.6	45,000	35,275	55,500	58,000	66,500
France	8,089	6,110	5,614	5,622	5,511	40.7	36.3	45.3	41.1	44.6	329,304	221,821	254,120	231,130	245,964
Western Germany	8/ 3,370	2,892	2,860	2,748	2,606	8/ 57.7	50.0	69.9	65.6	67.5	8/194,500	144,500	200,000	180,270	175,970
Greece	350	312	377	377	368	24.3	19.4	25.6	21.3	31.2	8,510	6,058	9,650	8,040	11,500
Ireland	571	819	650	640	-	68.8	58.7	63.1	64.1	-	39,265	48,040	41,000	41,000	37,500
Italy	1,062	1,138	1,142	1,148	1,142	35.9	26.8	30.7	30.5	36.8	38,150	30,513	35,110	35,000	42,000
Luxembourg	65	54	51	51	49	44.8	43.9	53.9	53.3	53.5	2,910	2,370	2,750	2,720	2,620
Netherlands	360	378	378	376	386	71.6	63.8	89.5	89.5	90.5	25,769	24,125	33,840	33,660	34,940
Norway	212	195	191	198	178	61.0	57.1	61.4	56.1	70.2	12,940	11,137	11,730	11,100	12,500
Portugal	865	914	790	750	770	12.0	9.0	12.8	12.8	12.2	10,350	8,270	10,100	9,580	9,400
Spain	9/ 1,848	1,566	1,550	1,483	1,480	9/ 21.3	22.0	24.0	25.4	18.2	9/ 39,369	34,390	37,200	37,700	27,000
Sweden	1,641	1,300	1,237	1,274	1,253	53.1	44.6	46.1	44.0	54.5	87,198	58,000	57,050	56,110	68,300
Switzerland	28	86	60	65	68	56.9	64.7	74.8	79.7	73.5	1,593	5,568	4,490	5,180	5,000
United Kingdom	2,430	3,443	2,857	2,882	2,840	57.0	59.5	64.1	67.3	69.5	138,628	204,692	183,120	194,040	197,470
Yugoslavia	893	-	-	-	-	24.5	-	-	-	-	21,900	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 6/	24,980	22,960	21,460	21,380	20,910	-	-	-	-	-	1,135,000	980,000	1,075,000	1,047,000	1,076,000
Other Europe, estimated total 10/	11,110	9,290	9,630	9,580	9,470	-	-	-	-	-	473,000	313,000	365,000	355,000	354,000
Estimated total, all Europe 6/	36,090	32,250	31,090	30,960	30,380	-	-	-	-	-	1,608,000	1,293,000	1,440,000	1,402,000	1,430,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe & Asia)	49,500	35,100	-	-	-	23.5	20.5	-	-	-	1,165,000	720,000	-	-	-

ASIA															
Syria	11/ 24	22	-	-	-	11/ 27.6	26.1	-	-	-	11/ 662	574	-	-	-
Turkey	636	642	762	880	788	26.6	21.8	31.6	31.7	36.1	16,893	14,000	24,110	27,900	28,450
China	8/ 2,600	2,365	-	-	-	8/ 23.1	21.7	-	-	-	8/ 60,000	51,335	-	-	-
Japan	310	227	193	203	215	37.0	28.3	50.0	46.8	45.2	11,481	6,431	9,650	9,500	9,710
Korea	8/ 242	-	-	-	-	8/ 11.2	-	-	-	-	8/ 2,718	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 6/	4,010	3,930	4,310	4,480	4,470	-	-	-	-	-	96,000	84,000	105,000	111,000	108,000
AFRICA															
Algeria	465	420	426	448	445	23.4	18.3	20.9	21.9	18.0	10,859	7,694	8,910	9,810	8,000
French Morocco	104	95	136	141	-	26.5	25.0	24.7	30.0	-	2,751	2,376	3,360	4,230	-
Tunisia	84	70	67	52	-	19.9	13.7	20.6	16.0	-	1,674	958	1,380	830	-
Union of South Africa	8/ 544	756	-	-	-	8/ 12.8	11.1	-	-	-	6,966	8,415	-	-	-
Estimated total 6/	1,220	1,370	1,370	1,360	1,340	-	-	-	-	-	23,000	20,000	23,000	24,000	23,000
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	1,974	1,709	1,033	2,380	-	25.4	28.0	29.2	36.7	-	50,182	47,782	30,200	87,430	58,500
Chile	279	216	244	247	-	27.5	24.6	31.3	29.6	-	7,670	5,310	7,640	7,300	6,550
Uruguay	213	172	131	145	-	14.6	16.5	19.8	18.6	-	3,100	2,840	2,600	2,700	-
Estimated total 6/	2,490	2,130	1,450	2,820	2,180	-	-	-	-	-	62,000	57,000	41,000	98,000	69,000
OCEANIA															
Australia	1,593	1,860	2,365	2,764	2,271	14.7	17.9	18.2	19.7	19.3	23,351	33,249	43,132	54,530	43,750
New Zealand	63	61	48	50	-	56.2	60.1	64.4	59.6	-	3,539	3,669	3,090	2,980	1,500
Total	1,656	1,921	2,413	2,814	2,297	-	-	-	-	-	26,890	36,918	46,222	57,510	45,250
Estimated world total 6/	144,010	129,010	126,260	129,120	127,060	-	-	-	-	-	4,365,000	3,930,000	4,195,000	4,200,000	4,025,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow: thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1953 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1953 and ended early in 1954. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Production and yield reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Data for individual years shown are not strictly comparable with averages shown, since recent estimates exclude data for farms of less than 2.5 acres. 8/ Average of less than 5 years. 9/ Figure for 1935 only. 10/ Comprises Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania. 11/ Includes estimate for Lebanon, and is, therefore, not strictly comparable with estimates shown for later years.

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Generally unfavorable weather for spring-sown grains in the Soviet Union appears to have caused some reduction in outturns of barley and oats. Barley is predominantly and oats exclusively spring-sown in this area. Extensive rains during the harvest period, especially during late August, were believed to have delayed harvesting in some areas, with increased crop losses probable.

Net production in Asia was a little above the 1952 total, with larger barley production more than offsetting a slight reduction for oats. The current estimate of 825 million bushels of barley compares with 800 million a year ago and the 1935-39 average of 768 million. A record crop in Turkey accounts for a good part of the increase. The outturn of oats, at 108 million bushels is only slightly below the 1952 crop of 111 million and is 12 percent above the prewar average.

Barley and oats crops were a little below the 1952 production in Africa. Barley production is estimated at 145 million bushels, compared with the large crop of 150 million bushels last year and the prewar average of 121 million bushels. The oats harvest is estimated at the prewar level of 23 million bushels.

In South America the production is somewhat below the unprecedented outturns of both these grains in 1952, when record crops in Argentina were harvested. Barley production of 64 million bushels for the current season, though 18 percent below last year's record, is sharply above the prewar average of 38 million. The reduction from the record 1952 oats crop is even greater than for barley, being, at 69 million bushels, 30 percent less than that record. This is slightly above the prewar average of 62 million bushels.

Oats production in Australia is still estimated somewhat below the high level of a year ago, but barley now is estimated to be slightly higher than in 1952. The barley outturn is now estimated at 38.4 million bushels, more than triple the prewar average. The gain is attributed to increased acreage and higher yields. Oats production of 43.8 million bushels is almost twice the prewar level but is well below the 1952 crop of 54.5 million bushels.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Wholesale prices at specified markets
March, 1954, with comparisons
(U. S. cents per pound)

Country, market and description	Butter				Cheese			
			Quotations				Quotations	
	Date	Price	Month earlier	Year earlier	Date	Price	Month earlier	Year earlier
United Kingdom (London)								
National butter 1/	Mar. 5	45.6	40.7	36.7	-	-	-	-
Ration varieties 1/	-	-	-	-	Mar. 5	27.3	24.9	25.1
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter	Mar. 1	41.8	41.8	41.9	-	-	-	-
Choicest cheddar	-	-	-	-	Mar. 1	25.7	25.7	25.7
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter	Mar. 3	55.0	55.0	55.4	-	-	-	-
- - - -	-	-	-	-	Mar. 3	30.8	30.6	28.8
Denmark (Copenhagen)	Feb. 25	2/ 44.7	2/ 44.7	45.4	-	-	-	-
France (Paris)								
Charentes Creamery butter	Feb. 25	94.6	95.9	93.3	-	-	-	-
Germany (Kempten)								
Markenbutter	Feb. 24	60.5	60.5	63.8	-	-	-	-
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Mar. 5	(65.6)	(65.7)	(67.1)	-	-	-	-
Chedder (Wisconsin)	-	-	-	-	Mar. 5	(33.8)	(33.8)	(36.6)
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery Butter 3/	Feb. 27	46.1	49.9	47.4	-	-	-	-
Full cream Gouda	-	-	-	-	Feb. 19	24.7	25.6	25.7
Edam 40 percent	-	-	-	-	Feb. 19	22.2	21.9	24.0
Belgium (Hasselt)	Feb. 25	75.7	87.4	85.0	-	-	-	-
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery 4/	Feb. 20	63.1	63.1	63.9	-	-	-	-
Ontario white 5/	-	-	-	-	Feb. 20	31.7	33.2	30.4

1/ Ministry of Food first-hand selling price. 2/ Accounting price based on average returns from exports. 3/ Ex-factory. 4/ Jobbing quotation. 5/ F.O.B. factory.

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee, except where figures appear in parentheses.

URUGUAY'S TOBACCO IMPORTS INCREASE

Uruguayan leaf tobacco imports in 1953 amounted to 8.8 million pounds, one-sixth greater than in the previous year and two-and-one-half times the prewar average. About three-fifths of Uruguay's tobaccos imports come from Brazil. The United States supplied 1.2 million pounds in 1953 and Cuba one million. Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Greece were the other chief sources of imports. Importers report that leaf tobacco was brought into Uruguay from the United States mainly through "switch" transactions.

The rise of Uruguay's leaf imports is attributed to (1) the low stocks on hand; (2) readily available supplies in Brazil; and (3) the availability of foreign exchange, particularly that of Brazil.

Imports of cigarettes (146,500 pounds) fell by one-eighth in 1953 as compared to 1952. Most of them continued to come from the United States. Cigar imports also declined while manufactured (principally pipe) tobacco imports increased. The difficulty of securing exchange for tobacco products, which are in the last or third category of imports, may account for the decline in imports of cigarettes and cigars. Increased illegal entries may also be a factor.

It is believed that the future for American leaf tobaccos and cigarettes in this market is largely dependent on the availability of foreign exchange.

Changes in consumer preferences or tastes appear to favor light American tobaccos in the long run although dark types are still the most popular.

Uruguay
Leaf Tobacco Imports 1935-39 and 1947-51 Averages and 1952 and 1953

Leaf Imports	Total	Brazil 1/	United States	Paraguay	Cuba	Dominican Republic	Other
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1935-39	3,051	2,158	283	211	269	44	86
1947-51	7,302	4,324	1,172	355	691	542	218
1952	7,507	3,983	699	1,712	523	259	331
1953	8,811	5,068	1,184	811	1,034	602	112

1/ Includes Black Twist

Compiled from official and trade sources.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1954

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in January 1954, totaled 30.3 million pounds, valued at $21.7 million. These figures compare with 30.7 million pounds, with a valuation of $19.9 million exported during the month of January 1953.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco, January 1954, with comparisons

(Export weight)

Type	January 1953	January 1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Flue-cured	24,129	26,520
Burley	1,226	1,096
Virginia fire-cured	276	143
Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee	3,064	977
Maryland	783	414
Green River	95	239
One-Sucker	30	41
Cigar Wrapper	369	290
Cigar Binder	306	149
Cigar Filler	107	29
Other	361	491
Total	30,746	30,389
Declared value, million dollars	19.9	21.7

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco at 26.5 million pounds in January of this year were 10 percent above those for January 1953. Most other types showed decreases.

Exports of cigarettes, chewing tobacco and snuff, and smoking tobacco were lower in January 1954 than in January 1953. Exports of cigars and cheroots, however, were larger.

Exports of tobacco products, January 1954, with comparisons

Class of Products	January 1953	January 1954
Cigars & Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	223	807
Cigarettes (1,000 pieces)	1,306,154	1,274,192
Chewing tobacco & snuff (1,000 pounds)	130	91
Smoking tobacco in packages (1,000 pounds)	29	40
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds)	381	51

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

FRENCH MOROCCO'S OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION LARGE

French Morocco's olive oil production from the 1953 olive crop is estimated at about 18,000 short tons, reports W. N. Stokes and A. S. Junod, American Consulate, Rabat. Crushing operations now in progress show an average edible oil content of slightly over 16 percent from the olive crop, officially estimated at 110,000 tons. Oil production from the 1952 crop is now placed at 13,000 tons.

Local consumption of olive oil is inseparably related to the total edible oil supply, and the proportion of olive oil consumed is directly dependent upon its price relative to imported peanut oil. Consumption in 1954 is estimated at around 15,000 tons with exports placed at about 2,000 tons and stocks carried out at the end of the season at 1,000 tons.

Quotations on the Casablanca wholesale market about March 11 were 187.50 francs per kilo (24.3 cents per pound) for unrefined olive oil and 255 francs (33.0 cents) for refined olive oil.

French Moroccan production of oilseeds for processing of edible oils in 1953 has been reported as follows: sunflower seed--7,935 tons; sesame--440; peanuts--440; safflower--2,205; and cottonseed--330 tons. With imports of shelled peanuts at 2,400 tons and peanut oil at 3,820 tons, the edible oil supply, exclusive of olive oil, amounted to 5,840 tons.

Flaxseed production in 1953 is estimated at 1,181,000 bushels and exports at 747,990 bushels. Linseed oil production amounted to 2,590 tons and exports at 2,370 tons. No seed or oil was imported. Production in 1954 is forecast at around 1,060,000 bushels of seed and 3,300 tons of oil.

The striking feature of the flaxseed situation in French Morocco is the limited activity of local crushing mills, due to high costs of operation. Thus, an unusually large share of each year's flaxseed crop is being exported as seed despite excess mill capacity.

The wholesale price of flaxseed on March 8 was 6,900 francs per quintal ($5.00 per bushel). Linseed oil prices are variable, but average about 16,830 francs per quintal (21.8 cents per pound) for the raw product.

U.S. SESAME SEED IMPORTS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

United States imports of sesame seed in 1953 totaled only 5,268 short tons, a decrease of 11 percent from 1952, and less than one-fifth of the average 1935-39 receipts. As in 1952, Nicaragua with 3,082 tons and El Salvador with 1,805 tons were the principal suppliers last year. Somewhat larger imports from El Salvador were insufficient to offset a substantial decrease in the quantity purchased from Nicaragua.

UNITED STATES: Sesame seed imports
by country of origin, 1953 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1950	1951	1952 1/	1953 1/
NORTH AMERICA:					
El Salvador	16	705	693	1,418	1,805
Guatemala	4	242	398	-	350
Nicaragua	97	2,852	2,839	4,394	3,082
Other	141	85	14	7	28
Total	258	3,884	3,944	5,819	5,265
ASIA:					
China	26,501	6,460	716	-	-
Hong Kong	638	26	24	3	-
India	484	127	455	-	-
Turkey	16	136	-	33	-
Other	1,031	9	1,080	36	3
Total	28,670	6,758	2,275	72	3
OTHER	285	17	-	28	-
Grand total	29,213	10,659	6,219	5,919	5,268

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

GREECE'S OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE REVISED DOWNWARD 1/

Greece's olive oil production from the 1953 olive crop is estimated preliminarily by the Ministry of Agriculture at 173,000 short tons, according to the American Embassy, Athens. The October forecast of 200,000 tons has been revised downward because of heavy and late infestation of the olive fruit by the Dacus fly. Nevertheless, the 173,000-ton estimate is the third largest in Greek history, exceeded only by the 247,500-ton production of 1949 and the 206,600-ton production of 1937. Oil production from the 1952 olive crop amounted to 77,000 tons.

Dacus fly infestation of the 1953 crop came in November, a relatively late date. Reported damage to the fruit varied greatly from area to area. Damage on the island of Crete was estimated at almost 100 percent in the plains and 20 to 50 percent in the hilly and mountainous area. Damage was less severe in other areas.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Olive oil consumption depends on the size of the olive crop but averages around 120,000 tons. When the crop is large and oil prices correspondingly low, consumption increases. Estimates of stocks as of October 1, 1953, range from 20,000 to 33,000 tons.

Although sizable olive oil exports were made before the war, postwar exports have been limited. Exports have increased considerably in recent months, and a total of about 6,600 tons from the 1953 crop already has been sold abroad. However, exporters expect further shipments from the new crop to be limited. The Government has authorized a total of 20,000 metric tons (22,000 short tons) of olive oil for export, but current f.o.b. international prices are close to domestic prices, and a drachma retention tax has been imposed on dollars earned by oil exports in an effort to keep domestic prices down. Exporters assert that this tax makes Greek oil noncompetitive with Tunisian oil, currently selling at $510 per metric ton ($463 per short ton) f.o.b. Tunis. The average Greek price is $550 ($499) f.o.b. Greek port.

Of the 6,600 tons already exported, more than 2,200 tons has been shipped to Italy, the traditional leading buyer; 2,200 tons was exported to the United States, and the remainder to other European countries.

INDIA'S COPRA IMPORTS INCREASE IN 1953

Indian imports of coconut products in 1953 is estimated at 67,570 long tons copra equivalent, an increase of 14 percent from 1952 receipts, reports the American Consulate, Madras. On the basis of import statistics supplied by the Indian Central Coconut Committee (ICCC), 194,287 coconuts, 25,758 long tons of copra and 25,905 long tons of coconut oil were imported into India last year. Compared with ICCC data for 1952, copra and coconut oil imports increased 30 and 6 percent, respectively, while imports of coconuts dropped by 82 percent. The bulk of the copra came from Ceylon while nearly all the coconut oil was supplied by Singapore, Ceylon, and Malaya.

While finding it necessary to import copra and coconut oil to meet requirements, India is the third ranking producer of coconuts in the world. Output in 1953 is estimated at roughly 3.4 billion nuts or about the same as in the two preceding years. On the ICCC basis that 46 percent of the net available supply of coconuts is converted into copra (6,800 nuts to 1 ton of copra) of which about 80 percent is milled, India's total production of coconut oil in 1953, including that produced from copra imports, totaled 128,630 long tons. With coconut oil imports estimated at 25,905 tons, the total supply of coconut oil available in India last year is estimated at 154,540 tons. This compares with the estimated supply in 1952 of 149,380 tons.

Coconut oil is used extensively in India for both edible and inedible purposes. According to the ICCC, about 44 percent of the available supply of coconut oil is used for edible purposes, 30 percent for toilet and domestic uses, 23.3 percent for the soap industry, and 2.7 percent for other uses.

Prices of coconut products during 1953 were well above the previous year. During December 1953 coconuts were selling at rupees 151 ($32) per 1,000 as against Rs. 132/1 ($28) in December 1952; copra per long ton sold at Rs. 1,241/10 ($261) against Rs. 1,137/8 ($239) and coconut oil at Rs. 1,809/3 per ton (17.0 U.S. cents per pound) against Rs. 1,685/4 (15.8 cents).

The annual session of the ICCC was held at Bombay in October 1953. The Committee recommended to the Government of India that the annual import of coconut products be restricted to 50,000 tons copra equivalent, and during the first half of 1954, only 25,000 tons of copra be imported of which not more than 25 percent should be in the form of coconut oil. Alternatively, the ICCC recommended that if coconut growers were guaranteed a minimum price, there need be no restrictions on imports in 1954.

PAKISTAN DECREASES AREA PLANTED TO RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED

The first official forecast of the area planted to rape and mustard seed in Pakistan for the year 1953-54 is 1,484,000 acres, a decrease of 10 percent from the 1,648,000 acres reported in the first forecast of the previous year, reports Henry W. Spielman, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Karachi. The acreage given in the final forecast of last year was 1,544,000 acres. Condition of the current crop, as of the first week in March, was reported to be satisfactory.

There has been a general decrease in the acreage of rape and mustard seed in Pakistan, with the exception of East Bengal and North-West Frontier Province. The reduction in area is largely due to diversion of the land to foodgrains. Large decreases occurred in Sind and Bahawalpur State. In Sind the decrease is due partly to higher rates of assessment and the extra cess imposed on oilseeds. A decrease in acreage in Baluchistan is attributed to inadequate and late water supply.

URUGUAY ANNOUNCES FLAXSEED, LINSEED OIL EXPORT POLICY FOR 1954

Uruguay's 1954 export policy for flaxseed and linseed oil was announced in the Diario Oficial (Uruguay's official gazette), dated March 6, 1954, reports Dale E. Farringer, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo. The decree authorizes the export of 8,000 metric tons (314,943 bushels) of flaxseed during the period February 23, 1954, through December 31, 1954. Flaxseed available for export in excess of the 8,000 tons specified must be divided as follows: two-thirds as flaxseed and one-third as linseed oil. Each firm must register its exports with the control agency known as the Contralor de Exportaciones e Importaciones.

The following exchange rates have been fixed for these exports: flaxseed--1.519 pesos per dollar; linseed oil--30 percent at 1.519 and 70 percent at 2.35, making a composite rate of 2.10 pesos to the dollar; expellers, cake and meal--1.78 pesos to the dollar. Article 8 of the decree provides for revising these exchange rates should the marketing situation warrant.

Considering the size of the last flaxseed crop (1953-54) currently estimated at around 70,000 metric tons (2,755,750 bushels) plus last season's carry-over of around 10,000 tons and deducting 17,000 tons for probable seed and internal consumption requirements, approximately 63,000 tons (2,480,000 bushels) of flaxseed would be available for export as seed and oil during 1954.

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS SLOW IN JANUARY

Exports of cotton from the United States amounted to 308,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (297,000 running bales) in January, representing a decrease of 82,000 bales from the December figure. The total of 1,593,000 bales (1,525,000 running bales) exported during August-January 1953-54 is still 12 percent below that for a corresponding period a year ago despite some gain in January. Unofficial figures compiled by the New York Cotton Exchange for February and the first half of March indicate that the export movement during that period was somewhat heavier than in January.

It is still possible that the export total for 1953-54 will reach 3.6 million bales (3.5 million running bales) compared with 3,181,000 in 1952-53. The uncertainty in the minds of foreign importers and exporters during the past year in regard to possible reduction of export prices of United States cotton caused importers to buy only for minimum operating requirements and exporters to reduce prices sharply for quick liquidation of stocks. The principal objective in both cases was not to have any excessive stocks on hand in case action taken in the United States resulted in lower priced cotton for export.

This period of downward adjustment of stocks in foreign countries has about run its course and considerable improvement in United States cotton exports is possible during the next year if the uncertainty regarding export prices of cotton is removed. Mill consumption in foreign importing countries as a group during the first half of the current season is running about 13 percent above that of a year ago. Import and consumption statistics for that period indicate that stocks in this group of countries are about 400,000 bales lower than the moderately low stocks reported for August 1, 1953.

(Text continued on Page 263)

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1951 and 1952; August-January 1952-53 and 1953-54

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1951	1952	August-January	
	1935-39	1945-49			1952-53	1953-54
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	0	1/ 36	32	47	17	28
Belgium-Luxembourg	169	131	317	73	54	26
Czechoslovakia	65	57	0	0	0	0
Denmark	33	14	34	34	17	13
Finland	35	21	33	4	4	0
France	662	575	309	507	231	201
Germany	511	340	447	241	134	138
Italy	442	489	560	272	186	131
Netherlands	107	131	197	79	48	41
Norway	17	7	15	11	7	6
Poland and Danzig	180	69	0	0	0	0
Portugal	36	2/	21	1	1	0
Spain	108	69	203	77	57	90
Sweden	115	12	100	36	22	17
Switzerland	11	26	99	28	23	17
United Kingdom	1,346	488	662	359	242	180
Yugoslavia	17	47	122	86	43	21
Other Europe	31	3/ 33	6	6	2	2
Total Europe	3,885	2,545	3,157	1,861	1,088	911
Canada	301	275	296	284	155	97
Chile	9	20	35	1	2/	7
Colombia	20	24	53	35	29	1
Cuba	11	16	20	12	8	7
India	52	86	778	45	28	23
China	117	401	0	0	0	0
French Indochina	22	6	24	18	10	8
Indonesia	2/	5	14	17	9	10
Japan	1,142	585	1,095	691	379	390
Korea, Republic of	4/	5/ 48	55	41	26	47
Taiwan (Formosa)	4/	1	53	107	47	53
Australia	9	7	50	11	8	14
Other countries	21	46	6/ 81	7/ 58	23	25
Total	5,589	4,065	5,711	3,181	1,810	1,593

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Four-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries." 5/ Three-year average. 6/ Mostly countries in Asia (35) and Africa (25). 7/ Israel 14, Republic of Philippines 16.

Foreign exporting countries will have reduced their stocks on August 1, 1954, by at least 1.5 million bales from those of a year ago. Their prices have increased steadily since the end of 1953 and all foreign growths (American types) are now being quoted at about the same level as those for United States cotton. New-crop South Brazilian cotton (now being picked) is about one cent a pound below that of United States cotton. The quantity available for export this year, however, will be around 1.0 million bales (about half of it composed of low-grade, old-crop stocks) compared with 1.8 million bales available for export during 1953-54.--By Charles H. Barber.

ARGENTINE EXPORTS OF BEEF TO U. K. LAGGING

It is highly improbable that Argentina can fill its 278 million pound contract with the United Kingdom during the first 6 months of 1954. Trade sources foresee some difficulty in meeting export commitments for lamb and mutton despite large slaughter in prospect. Pork is being exported to the United Kingdom and Germany with large bonuses being paid to export packers.

The Anglo-Argentine beef contract, agreed upon in February, calls for the shipment by Argentina of around 200 million pounds of carcass beef and beef offals as well as making up a 78 million pound deficit of these meats which accumulated in 1953 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 15, 1954). Cattle slaughter to fill such export and domestic requirements in 1954 must be around 50 percent greater than in 1953 and 10 percent above the largest annual kill of the past 8 years.

Argentine beef exports during January totaled 42.6 million pounds. However, shipments were suspended early in February due to the small slaughter and the necessity of utilizing the entire kill in the domestic market. Although shipments are now authorized, it is reported that the Government has granted a total export quota of only 19 million pounds for February-April.

At present cattle slaughter is heavy, supplies of fresh beef are exceeding domestic needs, and the excess is being frozen. It is likely that the bulk of these stocks will be utilized domestically within the next few months as cattle marketings decline. There now is a regulation in Argentina prohibiting the sale of beef on Fridays to discourage domestic use. Cattle receipts at central markets and packing plants during 1953 were around 20 percent less than the 1950-52 average. The composition of marketings indicated that the decline was due in the main to the retention of cows and heifers to build up herds and this trend is expected to continue in 1954. Pastures are in excellent condition and prospects for winter grazing appear bright.

Slaughter of sheep and lambs during 1953 was about as large as in 1952 but was 20 percent greater than the 1950-52 average. Slaughter is expected to continue large in 1954. Argentina has agreed to ship the United Kingdom about 56 million pounds of frozen lamb (including a small amount of frozen offals) and 0.7 million pounds of canned corned mutton during January-June this year. A Russian contract for 11.0 million pounds of frozen mutton carcasses was completed in March and an additional order for 33.0 million pounds of mutton is being negotiated. Exports of lamb in 1953 totaled about 2.1 million carcasses compared with 1.2 million in 1952. Shipments of mutton last year declined to 109,000 carcasses from 331,000 in 1952, principally because Great Britain did not renew her contract for this product.

Argentina has agreed to ship during 1954 around 11.0 million pounds of pork cuts and offals to Great Britain, and 8.8 million pounds of pork sides to Germany. Stocks of frozen pork are reportedly low due to the export commitments and pork products for the domestic market are on a day-to-day basis. Government bonuses to packers for pork exports amount to 100 percent of the f.o.b. prices for chilled sides, 85 percent for pork cuts and 40 percent for offal. Receipts of hogs at central markets and shipments directly to packers during the fourth quarter of 1953 were 13 percent greater than the average for the corresponding quarter during 1950-52.

WORLD HOG NUMBERS DECLINE 1/

There are now around 301 million hogs in the world, 2 percent less than a year earlier but 18 percent more than the low level of 1946-50, on the basis of the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Hog numbers have declined for 2 years after reaching a peak in 1952. Reductions in numbers in the United States and Canada accounted for most of the decrease in the world total in 1953. Low hog prices during 1952 discouraged hog production in those countries, despite the fact that feed supplies were abundant, and production did not expand in 1953 although hog prices rose sharply. Reduced feed grain supplies resulted in a reduction in hog numbers in Brazil during 1953. Increased pork supplies in Western Europe slowed down the sharp expansion in hog numbers that has taken place there in recent years.

During the past year hog numbers in North America declined substantially. More moderate reductions were recorded for Eastern Europe and South America. Hog numbers in both Africa and Oceania remained relatively unchanged. Numbers increased again in Asia and apparently continued their upward trend in the Soviet Union.

1/ A more extensive statement will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

HOGS: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1949-1954

Continent and Country	Month of estimate 1/	Average 1936-40	Average 1946-50	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 2/	1954 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	4,078	5,542	4,604	5,413	5,419	5,498	5,237	4,721
El Salvador	July	559	3/ 325	-	-	1/ 419	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	213	3/ 394	-	415	-	-	-	-
Honduras	July	235	364	-	450	-	521	550	-
Mexico	June	3/ 4,965	5,960	-	6,701	-	-	-	7,500
Nicaragua		3/ 250	250	-	300	-	350	360	-
United States	Jan. 1	48,352	57,563	56,257	58,852	62,852	63,582	54,294	48,179
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 904	3/ 1,730	1,800	1,800	1,800	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	June	3/ 842	4/ 1,140	-	1,140	1,087	1,100	-	-
Estimated total		61,400	74,500	72,500	76,700	80,500	81,600	72,300	66,300
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 2,849	5/ 1,558	5/ 1,618	5/ 1,927	2,780	2,700	2,850	2,800
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/ 1,005	5/ 886	5/ 912	1,361	1,234	1,427	1,382	1,220
Denmark	Jan.	2,997	2,033	1,944	3,120	3,616	3,229	3,906	4,456
Finland	Mar. 1	6/ 485	350	409	7/ 446	7/ 442	-	-	-
France	Fall 1/	7,034	5/ 5,714	5/ 6,424	5/ 6,747	5/ 6,824	5/ 7,222	5/ 7,179	7,263
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	12,660	5/ 6,866	5/ 6,755	5/ 9,698	11,890	13,603	12,979	12,413
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 532	482	509	530	568	635	587	620
Ireland	June	978	543	675	645	558	719	879	-
Italy	Jan. 1	3,700	3,800	4,400	4,052	3,510	4,212	-	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	148	100	106	110	100	110	-	-
Netherlands	Dec. 1 1/	1,725	1,187	1,158	1,795	2,273	2,110	2,259	2,103
Norway	June 20	393	321	419	422	386	418	379	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 1,206	4/ 1,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 4,944	3/ 5,122	5,568	-	5,970	-	6,300	-
Sweden	Summer	1,292	1,213	1,238	1,278	1,324	1,363	1,400	-
Switzerland	April	915	783	877	908	892	1,007	1,017	-
United Kingdom	June	4,380	2,309	2,823	2,986	3,891	4,962	5,176	-
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	1/ 3,238	-	4,127	4,287	3,911	3,990	4,500	-
Total above		50,500	38,200	41,300	47,400	51,500	55,700	56,800	56,700
Other Europe		26,000	16,100	18,800	21,400	21,500	23,100	22,300	21,400
Estimated total		76,500	54,300	60,100	68,800	73,000	78,800	79,100	78,100
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	4/ 32,300	13,000	15,000	19,000	24,100	26,700	28,500	-

ASIA									
British Malaya		746	397	452	475	476	504	-	-
Burma	Dec. 31 1/	538	3/ 323	-	-	-	500	520	540
China 8/	May	63,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	Jan. 1	4/ 2,777	-	-	3,713	3,709	4,173	-	-
Indonesia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 1,199	3/ 1,165	-	1,184	-	1,198	1,278	-
Japan	Feb. 1	1/ 960	301	488	608	452	799	994	-
Korea-South	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 828	440	659	525	156	335	-	-
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	3/ 4,398	3/ 3,300	3,533	3,899	4,159	4,449	4,795	5,400
Taiwan(Formosa)	Dec. 31 1/	1,803	976	1,167	1,362	1,620	2,262	2,600	-
Estimated total		83,900	74,200	74,900	75,900	76,700	79,000	80,200	81,300
SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July	3/ 3,674	3,000	3,000	2,600	2,800	2,900	2,500	2,000
Brazil		3/ 23,224	24,400	24,500	25,000	1/ 26,059	1/ 27,801	1/ 30,916	1/ 30,000
Chile	June	3/ 420	3/ 590	600	600	650	700	720	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 1,572	3/ 2,092	2,162	2,470	2,782	-	-	-
Ecuador		3/ 350	3/ 1,070	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru		9/ 800	3/ 911	960	995	1,203	1,268	1,200	-
Uruguay	May	3/ 373	3/ 258	-	-	259	-	260	1/ 275
Estimated total		31,300	33,900	34,200	34,800	36,700	38,700	41,400	40,000
AFRICA									
Algeria	April	58	140	160	137	103	77	-	-
Nyasaland	Dec. 31 1/	65	3/ 75	80	91	45	42	56	-
French Morocco 10/	Dec. 31 1/	64	68	97	103	84	56	53	55
Madagascar 10/	Dec. 31 1/	578	406	400	405	399	296	248	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31 1/	70	64	68	82	75	78	77	-
Northern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	29	48	43	46	47	48	-	-
Angola		4/ 410	4/ 425	440	450	450	460	475	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	115	121	103	107	98	111	125	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	24	32	42	42	29	20	16	-
Union of South Africa	August	3/ 1,007	1,290	1,428	1,350	1,315	1,275	-	-
Estimated total		3,400	3,900	4,200	4,100	4,000	3,800	3,800	3,800
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 1,242	1,255	1,196	1,123	1,134	1,022	992	975
New Zealand	Jan. 31	753	548	545	552	564	566	628	650
Estimated total		2,100	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,800
Estimated world total		290,900	255,800	262,900	281,200	296,900	310,400	307,100	301,300

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1948 estimate of 4,604,000 is shown under 1949. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 6/ September. 7/ June. 8/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 9/ Year 1934. 10/ Number taxed only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.—March, 1954.

Numbers in the United States declined 11 percent in 1953 and the number on farms in January 1954 was the smallest since 1938. Numbers in Canada decreased 10 percent during the year and the total on hand in December 1953 was the smallest since late 1948. Breeding intention reports indicate a very sharp increase in hog production in Canada this spring and a more moderate increase in the United States. Hog-feed price ratios continue unusually favorable in these countries. Pork supplies are relatively small, and hog prices relatively high.

Hog numbers in Western Europe continued to rise to the highest point reached since World War II. Within the past year increases occurred in Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Numbers declined in both Belgium and Western Germany for the second year in a row. Limited information indicates that numbers are down in Spain and Portugal. Numbers declined in the Netherlands during 1953. Production of hogs in Western Europe has made a strong comeback since World War II, but the increases in each of the last 2 years have been much less than in earlier ones. Pork supplies in Europe have increased markedly and there is less incentive for further expansion.

Hog numbers appear to be increasing in Asia, though information is lacking for China, the principal hog-producing country. There were reported to be 4.8 million hogs in the Philippine Islands at the first of 1953 and numbers apparently increased further during the year. During the past few years hog production has been on the upturn in Japan, Taiwan (Formosa) and Indonesia.

Numbers decreased in Brazil during 1953 following the harvest of a small corn crop the year before. Brazil is the largest producer of hogs in South America and accounts for around three-fourths of the total for the continent. At the present time feed supplies in Brazil are plentiful and hog prices are at relatively high levels indicating that a substantial recovery in hog production is now taking place. Numbers in Argentina apparently are still below prewar. Hog production in Colombia, Peru and Venezuela is large compared with earlier years.

Production of hogs in Africa apparently has been trending downward during the past 3 or 4 years, chiefly because of a reduction in numbers in the Union of South Africa. The general trend in numbers also has been downward in Algeria, French Morocco and Madagascar. There has been a general increase in Southern Rhodesia and Angola.

Hog numbers in both Australia and New Zealand are considerably below their 1946-50 averages. Numbers in Australia have declined for the past 3 years but numbers in New Zealand have increased steadily since 1949 and a further increase seems probable during 1954.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

ARGENTINA EXPORTS EGG PRODUCTS, IN 1953

Argentina once again became an exporter of eggs and egg products in 1953 according to Robert C. Tetro, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Egg production for 1952, 1953 and 1954 is estimated at 3,000 million, 3,120 million and 3,444 million eggs, respectively. Exports of edible products, all under quota, were concentrated in the last quarter of 1953, with some industrial frozen yolk and albumen moving out earlier in the year. The United Kingdom was the principal buyer of edible products.

Furthermore on March 5, 1954 the Government announced an increase of quotas for processed egg exports, equivalent to 30,000 cases, setting the 1954 quota at 36,000 cases. It is indicated that exports under the additional 30,000 cases will primarily be frozen eggs. Egg production should be 10 - 15% larger than 1953 and new production surpluses for export should be available by mid-August.

ARGENTINA: Exports of Eggs and Egg Products, 1953.

Destination	Whole Egg		Albumen (edible)	Yolk (edible)		Total 1/2/
	Dried	Frozen	Frozen	Dried	Frozen	
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Belgium	-	91,105	50,430	-	12,538	166,419
France	12,897	-	-	-	-	12,897
Germany	8,777	-	-	-	-	8,777
Italy	104,057	-	8,157	-	95,338	207,552
Netherlands	-	-	-	19,400	-	19,400
Switzerland	88,967	-	826	-	-	89,793
United Kingdom ..	260,143	-	90,761	-	42,022	392,926
United States ...	1,499	-	-	26,014	-	27,513
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	83,806
Finland	-	-	-	-	-	2,489
Total	476,340	91,105	150,174	45,414	149,898	1,011,572

1/ Excluding shell eggs: Germany 32,600 cases, Italy 6,384 cases, United Kingdom 61,200 cases and Venezuela 4,000 cases. (1 case = 30 dozen).
2/ Where totals are greater than the items presented the difference is industrial (inedible) yolk and albumen.

FRANCE'S LIVESTOCK OUTPUT AT RECORD LEVELS; PRICES DECLINE

Livestock numbers and meat production in France established new all-time record highs in 1953, which resulted in sharply reduced livestock prices during the late summer and early fall. Large marketings in early 1954 point to another new record in meat production.

Marketings and slaughter throughout 1953 ran higher than in the corresponding months of 1952. Meat production was officially estimated at 4.8 billion pounds, 5 percent above 1952. The high level of output was achieved despite the fact that epidemics of foot-and-mouth disease in 1952 were reported to be the most serious ever experienced in France.

Sharp declines in livestock prices seriously affected farm income and led to a series of violent demonstrations by farmers which led to corrective action by the Government. The French Ministry of Agriculture established a price supporting agency patterned after the Commodity Credit Corporation of the United States to stabilize livestock prices. In November the Ministry began purchasing livestock numbers in rather large volume. Initial purchases of 45,000 head of cattle were turned over to the military in carcass or processed form. Later additional purchases of 11,000 head of cattle were slaughtered and placed in cold storage. The Government has sponsored an aggressive export program and is seeking additional export outlets. By the end of 1953 it had exported 9,000 cattle and 22,000 head of hogs in carcass form.

While prices to farmers for livestock declined rapidly during the latter part of 1953, these declines were only partially reflected in lower consumer prices.

PROPOSED GERMAN IMPORT LEVY ON DUTCH EGGS

Netherlands trade sources indicate that a proposed German plan to increase import duties on Dutch eggs would seriously injure the Netherlands' egg industry, according to George J. Dietz, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, the Hague. The Dutch government sent a memorandum to West Germany to this effect and further stated the value of eggs exported to Germany equals about 20 percent of its total exports to that country. Thus the increased import duties on eggs would seriously effect the volume of Netherlands-German economic traffic.

The proposed revision of the present import duty was recently requested by West German poultry farmers in order to protect their domestic industry. They suggest the present import duty on Dutch eggs of 15 percent ad valorem be changed to a sliding import duty amounting to 39.6 cents per dozen minus 75 percent of the f.o.b. border value.

Under the present 15 percent system, the import duty for eggs valued at 31 cents per dozen is 4.7 cents; under the new system the levy on 31 cent eggs would average 17 cents. Dutch eggs priced at 56 cents f.o.b. are at present levied at 8 cents, while under the proposed new tariff no levy would be paid for eggs of this value. Thus the higher the f.o.b. price of eggs the lower the import duty.

BRITAIN ANNOUNCES CUT IN SUPPORT PRICES FOR SOME FARM ITEMS

According to a British Government White Paper (Cmd.9104) released March 18, British agriculture will no longer be asked to produce a given quantity of a commodity irrespective of cost. The new policy marks a definite change in emphasis from quantity of production to quality, efficiency of production and meeting consumer preferences. This announcement also concerns other policy shifts in agriculture.

An analysis of the White Paper indicates that it does not mean the beginning of unrestricted imports, but it does point to a change in direction towards a freer British market based on costs and efficiency of production. It announces that there is increasing importance in the relationship between trends of world food prices and the costs of home production; that it is not regarded as practicable or desirable to try to set precise commodity production goals in free market conditions, with the lifting of ration restrictions. It means the postponement of the production goal of 60 per cent increase in net output of agriculture over prewar. However, the announcement of the proposed means for attaining this goal does indicate a definite trend. It is stated that it is to be attained by increased production of beef and, perhaps more mutton and lamb, continued steady improvement in crop yields, and saving of feed imports by increase in tilled lands, improved management and use of grass, coupled with skill and economy in the use of concentrated feedstuffs. It is announced that further expansion must depend on the continued success of agriculture in reducing costs and improving quality, particularly of livestock products.

The White Paper announces that farmers' receipts in the future will depend on sales in a competitive market, supplemented where necessary by the guarantees, and will no longer be determined in advance by fixed prices, except for wool, sugar beets and potatoes in 1954-55. For most agricultural commodities, the Government has announced that the farmers will be allowed to sell at the market price and that the Government will make a deficiency payment for any difference between the price actually received and the guaranteed price, which the British call the standard price. The way is left open for further reductions in the standard prices at a later date.

To implement the new policy there will be a reduction in support prices for milk and pigs, and a small reduction for cereals on the 1955 harvest. There will be some minor adjustments in the support price of fat cattle, but none on fat sheep and lambs, after decontrol of meat. It is stated that greater attention to beef quality will mean better-bred and fed animals marketed at lower weights. The standard price for wheat will continue to be subject to seasonal variation, giving incentive to growers who postpone marketing by storage. The statement is made that the efficient production of cereals must continue to play an important role in the maintenance of a large tillage area, and that the tillage area increased 43,000 acres in 1953-54, with special emphasis on wheat. The Government announces that it continues to hold the view "that the only practicable arrangement for guaranteeing cereal crops is a Deficiency Payments System", and recognizes that the costs of implementing the guarantees for the 1954 and 1955 harvests will be high.

While it is stated that the primary object is to secure a more rapid improvement in efficiency in agriculture by raising quality, increasing consumer choice and demands, and reduction in production costs, hopes are expressed by Government officials that savings to the Government of £30 million per year will be effected.

ANTARCTIC WHALING SEASON ENDS MARCH 18

The 1953-54 Antarctic pelagic (open-sea) catch of baleen whales, which began on January 2, 1954, and ended on March 18, resulted in a total catch of 15,439 blue-whale units, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Thus, the total catch during the 76-day hunting period, 2 days longer than in the preceding season, nearly reached the maximum catch quota of 15,500 units (formerly 16,000) established by international agreement.

Seventeen factory ships and about 206 catcher boats were engaged in the pelagic operations. Participating countries and the number of factory ships employed by each were: Norway--9, the United Kingdom--3, Japan--2, and the Soviet Union, the Netherlands, and the Union of South Africa 1 each.

While data regarding the yield of whale oil from the 1953-54 catch will not be available until late in April, it would appear that production should be somewhat larger than last year, assuming that the yield of whale oil per blue-whale unit has remained approximately the same. In the 1952-53 Antarctic pelagic season, 16 factory ships produced nearly 352,000 short tons of whale oil from a total catch of 14,855 blue-whale units. Total production of whale oil in 1953, including that produced by South Georgia shore-stations and output of other areas of the world, is estimated at 420,000 tons. Sperm whale oil produced during the 1952-53 Antarctic operations totaled some 21,000 tons while world production approximated 50,000 tons.

The length of the Antarctic pelagic whaling season is determined largely by the rapidity of the catch. The final day, however, is designated by the Committee of International Whaling Statistics and constitutes a forecast (of 4 days this season) as to when the allowable quota will have been attained.

NOTE: 1 blue-whale unit = 1 blue whale, or 2 fin whales, or 2.5 humpback whales, or 6 sei whales. Thus, the actual number of whales taken during a season is far greater than the indicated number of units. In 1952-53, for example, the catch in blue-whale units was 14,855 whereas the total number of whales killed totaled more than 28,000.

BELGIAN CONGO PALM OIL PRODUCTION DOWN

Palm oil production in the Belgian Congo during 1953 is estimated at 174,000 short tons, reports R. L. Yost, American Consulate General, Leopoldville. This is a decline of 6 percent from 1952 production, estimated at 186,000 tons.

Stocks at the beginning of 1953 were reported at 6,000 tons, domestic consumption at about 24,500, exports at 146,385, and ending stocks approximately 9,000 tons.

Palm kernel oil production is estimated at 19,800 tons and exports at 17,912 tons.

The Government agricultural services report about 300,000 acres of producing palm trees and 115,875 acres of young trees, not yet productive, as of December 31, 1952. It is believed that this acreage may have been increased by some 5 percent in 1953. (The 415,875 reported acres appear to be acreage in plantations. In addition, native growth amounts to roughly 140,000 acres.)

Palm oil prices passed through a period of depression in 1953, though by the end of the year they had recovered to the January level. From an average 11,000 Congo francs per metric ton (10.0 cents per pound) c.i.f. Antwerp in March, prices dropped to the July average of 8,900 francs (8.1 cents) but by December were back to 10,600 francs (9.6 cents). These prices compare with the all-time high of 15,130 francs (13.7 cents) averaged during 1951 and the 1952 average of 11,270 francs (10.2 cents). The Congo Government aided processors by lowering the minimum price at which palm fruit could be bought from the natives from 75 to 60 centimes per kilo (.68 to .54 cent per pound) as of August 16, 1953 and by lowering the export duty in October from 5 percent to 2 percent, retroactive to July 1. The base value for export duty purposes was lowered from 9,130 to 7,500 francs (8.3 to 6.8 cents) as of the first of August. In addition, the maritime freight rate was cut twice during the year.

As a result of an improved market at the beginning of this year, the Government decided to raise the export duty again, this time to 7 percent. The complaint of producers that this action was premature seems to have been borne out by the weakening of price levels again during early March. The c.i.f. Antwerp price, which had risen to 11,500 francs per ton (10.4 cents) during February, stood at 10,000 francs (9.1 cents) on March 9.

Palm kernel oil, which was quoted at 16,000 francs (14.5 cents) c.i.f. Antwerp at the end of 1950 and averaged 12,922 francs (11.7 cents) during 1952, had risen to 17,500 francs (15.9 cents) on February 10, 1954. On March 9, however, it was reported that no buying was taking place even for oil offered at 13,250 francs (12.0 cents).

Peanut oil production in 1953 is estimated at 10,800 tons and exports at 9,657 tons. Peanut production estimates have not been reported. The oil prices published locally are those for Nigerian oil, c.i.f., London, which on January 15, 1954, were 11,712 francs per metric ton (10.6 cents per pound) March/April delivery.